4   desired direction simultaneously includes both a desired vertical component and a desired

5   horizontal component with respect to the cursor as displayed; and

6   • at least one processing means for interpreting and acting on the signals, the processing means

7   being adapted to perform at least the following operations:

8   o causing displacement of the cursor at a first speed relative to the display during a

9   predetermined time interval after activation of the user-interface means by the user;

10   and

11   o causing displacement of the cursor at a second speed relative to the display after the

12   predetermined time interval has elapsed,

13   whereby a desired cursor motion in the desired direction is achieved ergonomically.

1   13. A user interface apparatus for use in a cursor control system, the apparatus comprising:

2   • a single direction manipulator — responsive to user manipulation — for specifying a desired

3   direction of cursor motion, which desired direction simultaneously includes both a desired

4   vertical component and a desired horizontal component with respect to the cursor as

5   displayed; and

6   • means for supplying signals representative of the desired direction and a desired speed, the

7   signals representing

8   o a first speed relative to the display during a predetermined time interval after

9   activation of the direction manipulator by the user; and

10   o a second speed relative to the display after the predetermined time interval has

11   elapsed,

12   whereby a desired cursor motion in the desired direction is achieved ergonomically.

1   14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein:

2   • the first speed is a relatively low speed and the second speed is a relatively high speed; and

3   • the user-interface means and/or the processing means is operative to render at least a

4   relatively low speed or the relatively high speed variable in response to the user manipulating

5   the direction-manipulator.

1   15. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the processing means or the user-interface means is

2   provided with respective counting means to count the number of events elapsed since the user-

3   interface means was last activated.

1   16. The system of claim 12, wherein the user interface means comprises:

2   • at least one sensor for supplying at least one cursor motion specification signal, responsive to

3   the user manipulation,

4   • means for increasing a voltage as a function of time, responsive to the cursor motion

5   specification signal, and

6   • means for triggering an output signal when the voltage reaches a given level.

1   17. The system of claim 16, wherein the at least one sensor comprises a plurality of force

2   detectors.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1 3. The system of claim 12, wherein data transmission from the user-interface means to the

2 processing means involves a temporal basis in terms of repetitive events, and wherein the

3 processing means or the user interface means is operative to measure the predetermined time

4 interval in terms of the number of events.

1 4. The system of Claim 3, wherein

2 • the first speed is a relatively low speed and the second speed is a relatively high speed;

3 • a respective one of the respective events involves a respective update of a cursor position,

4 • the relatively low speed is effected by a relatively short displacement of the cursor per

5 update, and

6 • the relatively high speed is effected by a relatively large displacement of the cursor per

7 update.

1 5. The system of claim 2, wherein

2 • the first speed is a relatively low speed and the second speed is a relatively high speed; and

3 • the user-interface means or the processing means is operative to render at least the relatively

4 low speed or the relatively high speed variable in response to the user manipulating the

5 direction-manipulator.

1 6. The system of claim 3, wherein the processing means or the user-interface means is provided

2 with a respective counting means to count the number of events elapsed since the user-interface

3 was last activated.